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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/594,765	06/16/2000	Yehuda Binder	BINDER=9	1885

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EXAMINER

YAO, KWANG BIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2667

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/594,765

Applicant(s)

BINDER, YEHUDA

Examiner

Kwang B. Yao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4,5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13-17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Depue (US 6,212,204).

Depue discloses a system for the connection of any standard analog terminal subscriber telephone equipment comprising the following features: as depicted in Fig. 1, regarding claim 1,

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for use with a telephone installation. within a building, the telephone installation having a line (24,26) and external connections (Line 1, Line2, Line n) between the line and a central office of a telephone service provider (14, 15, 16), a system for connecting to the telephone installation so as to allow more voice channels to be carried over the line (24, 26) without requiring modification or extension of the telephone installation, the system comprising at least two modules (18, 34) for coupling to the telephone line (24, 26), wherein the modules are operative for: (i) converting between at least one standard analog telephone (40), signal and at least one time-domain multiplexed voice channel; and (ii) interfacing with standard analog telephone equipment (40) and signals therefrom; regarding claim 3, wherein the line (24, 26) is a pre-existing line; regarding claim 6, comprising at least one outlet for coupling to at least two of the modules (18, 34); regarding claim 7, at least one of the modules (34) is fully contained within the at least one outlet; regarding claim 8, wherein at least one of the modules (18) is partially contained within the at least one outlet; regarding claim 9, wherein at least one of the modules (34) is external to the at least one outlet; regarding claim 10, A kit for upgrading a pre-existing telephone installation having a line (24, 26) within a building so as to allow more voice channels to be carried over the line (24, 26) without requiring modification or extension of the telephone installation, the kit comprising: (i) at least one outlet (Tip, Ring in Box 18), the outlet having a connection for coupling to the line (24, 26), and (ii) a module (34) operative for: a) converting between at least one standard analog telephone signal and at least one time-domain multiplexed voice channel; and b) interfacing with standard analog telephone equipment and signals therefrom; regarding claim 11, the module (34) is further operative to data handling; regarding claim 13, module (18) is fully contained within the outlet; regarding claim 14, module (18) is

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partially contained within the outlet; regarding claim 15, the module (34) is external to the outlet; regarding claim 16, further comprising a telephone-line modem (44); regarding claim 17, wherein the outlet is a telephone outlet; regarding claim 19, a method for upgrading a pre-existing telephone installation having a line within a building, so as to allow more voice channels to be carried over the line without requiring modification or extension of the telephone installation, the method comprising the steps of (i) providing a telephone line modem (44); (ii) providing a subscriber-line interface; (iii) providing a drop-and-insert multiplexer (18, 34) for interfacing between the voice channels and the subscriber-line interface; (iv) providing an outlet (T, R outside Box 34); and (v) equipping the outlet with the telephone-line modem (44), the subscriber-line interface, and the drop-and-insert multiplexer (18, 34). See column 4-7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 12, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depue (US 6,212,204) in view of Fan (US 6,519,250).

Depue discloses the claimed limitations above. Depue does not disclose the following features: regarding claim 2, the line is operative for carrying at least first and second bands, said first band being operative for carrying standard analog telephone signals, the system furthermore comprising at least one passive filter. for separating the first band from the second band;

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regarding claim 12, said module is further operative to protocol converting; regarding claim 18, for use with a line operative for carrying a plurality of bands, a band of which is operative to carrying standard analog telephone signals, the kit furthermore comprising at least one passive filter for separating the band operative to carrying standard analog telephone signals; regarding claim 20, wherein the line is operative for carrying a standard analog telephone service, the method. furthermore comprising the steps of (vi) providing a passive high-pass filter and a passive low-pass filter; (viii) connecting said filters to isolate the standard analog telephone service from the plurality of voice channels; and (viii,) providing a connector to connect a standard telephone set to the standard analog telephone service. Fan discloses an Internet telephone system comprising the following features: depicted in Figs. 2 and 3, regarding claim 2, the line (30) is operative for carrying at least first and second bands, said first band being operative for carrying standard analog telephone signals, the system furthermore comprising at least one passive filter (32A) for separating the first band from the second band; regarding claim 12, said module is further operative to protocol converting (64, 72); regarding claim 18, for use with a line (30) operative for carrying a plurality of bands, a band of which is operative to carrying standard analog telephone signals, the kit furthermore comprising at least one passive filter (32A) for separating the band operative to carrying standard analog telephone signals; regarding claim 20, wherein the line (30) is operative for carrying a standard analog telephone service, the method. furthermore comprising the steps of (vi) providing a passive high-pass filter (32B) and a passive low-pass filter (32A); (viii) connecting said filters (32A, 32B) to isolate the standard analog telephone service from the plurality of voice channels; and (viii) providing a connector to connect a standard telephone set to the standard analog telephone service. See

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column 5-8. It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Depue by using the features, as taught by Fan, in order to provide a quick connect telephone system. See Fan, column 1, lines 15-19.

6. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depue (US 6,212,204) in view of Aranguren et al. (US 4,674,085).

Depue discloses the claimed limitations above. Depue does not disclose the following features: regarding claim 4, the line is characterized by a bus topology; regarding claim 5, wherein the line is characterized by a point-to-point topology. Aranguren et al. discloses a system comprising the following features: regarding claim 4, the line is characterized by a bus topology; regarding claim 5, wherein the line is characterized by a point-to-point topology. See column 1, lines 27-39, and lines 51-60. It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Depue by using the features, as taught by Aranguren et al., in order to provide an efficient data access system.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Starr (US 6,324,167) discloses a system for conveying multiple calls.

Arimilli et al. (US 6,151,333) discloses a data multiplexing network.

Akers (US 6,141,330) discloses a communication system.

Balatoni (US 5,610,922) discloses a DDS multiplexer.

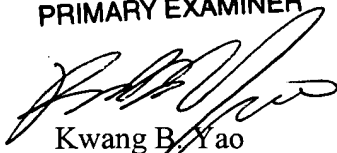
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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kwang B. Yao whose telephone number is 703-308-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi H Pham can be reached on 703-305-4378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

KWANG BIN YAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Kwang B. Yao
Jan. 10, 2004